planned to expand the revised strategy to cover a population of 500 million by 2002 and 800 million by 2004. Under the RCH Programme interventions for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections are being provided. Medical and Para-Medical Staff is being trained and Co-trimoxazole tablets for treatment of pneumonia in children under age of five years is provioded to the sub-centres as a part of the drug kit. In addition the immunization programme provides protection against six vaccine preventable diseases, some of which cause respiratory morbidity.

Availability of Cheap Medicines for TB

†2292. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of tuberculosis patients are in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that medicines available for this disease are very costly whereas the persons affected by it are totally poor and helpless; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to provide medicines of this disease in the market at cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) India accounts for 1/3rd of global TB burden. About 14 lac new TB cases are detected and put on treatment under National TB Control Programme every year.

(b) and (c) The approximate cost for full treatment of a TB patient comes to around Rs. 280 to Rs. 700, depending upon the treatment regimen required for treating the patients. Under National TB Control Programme, anti-TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to all TB patients.

Comprehensive plan to control HIV infection

2293. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any revamped comprehensive plan to control and/or combat the menacing diseases of HIV infection, particularly AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what are the specific measures to socially treat the unfortunate patients of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme (Phase-II) with the following key components.

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

(c) The AIDS patients are treated at par with other patients in public sectors hospitals without discrimination and stigmatization. Drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infection are provided free of cost to the patients at these hospitals.

Besides, States with high HIV prevalence are being encouraged to establish community care centres with the support of Non-Governmental Organisations for care and support of AIDS patients and their family members.

Supply of Medical Equipments to G.B. Pant Hospital

2294. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the company which submitted tenders for the supply of medical equipments (10 deferbrillators with monitors) to G.B. Pant Hospital, Delhi in pursuance of an enquiry in December, 1999;